

ANACORTES, WASHINGTON

# HISTORIC Walking Tour

## THIRTY Historic Homes & Buildings

*This walking tour map identifies thirty of the many historic buildings in our downtown core.*

*The tour is organized so that it can be enjoyed as one 90 minute walk or in two 45 minute loops (listings 1-19 and 20-30).*

90 minute walk, or two 45 minute loops **TOUR »**









1

## ANACORTES JUNK CO.

SW side of 2nd St. at Commercial

Built around 1900

One of the oldest wooden frame, false-front buildings in town and a good example of the type of structures built during the city's

formative years. Charles Becker operated his blacksmith shop here in 1905. By 1913, Greek immigrant E. Mike Demopoulos established Anacortes Junk Company, which evolved and expanded to become Marine Supply & Hardware. [NR]

## MARINE SUPPLY & HARDWARE

202 Commercial Ave. Built 1900-1907

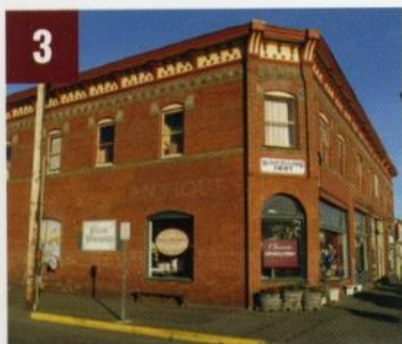
Note bracketed cornice and Italianate style. Building was not constructed at the same time, but unified and connected under ownership of E. Mike Demopoulos,

whose marine hardware business opened here in 1920.

Before then, the northern corner operated as the Anchorage Confectionery from 1907, while a restaurant and saloon operated in a separate building southward. [NR]



2



3

## OLSON BUILDING

220 Commercial Ave. Built 1902 and 1907

Two-story brick structure built in phases by Alfred Olson, who operated the Skagit Saloon here. Original 1902 brick structure was one story and occupied only half

of the current footprint (on south side) before growing up a floor and northward in 1907. See prominent bracketed cornice and rusticated stone belt course. [NR]

## FOMO'S GROCERY (LATER "SMOKEY'S" GROCERY)

909 3rd St. Built around 1900

Virtually unaltered structure originally located at 310

Commercial, housing saloons until 1916 Prohibition, then Fomo's Fruit

& Grocery (a.k.a. California Fruit Store) from 1917 through late '20s. Moved to this site about 1928. Freya Boat Works operated here from the 1970s. [NR]



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## 4TH STREET APARTMENTS

**910 4th St. Built about 1906**

Note purlins and braces at roof and polygonal bays. Ground level housed Walter Ginnett's bicycle shop in 1907, and later converted to Ginnett Apartments. Building

immediately west of the apartments (317 Commercial) features pressed brick veneer. It was constructed in 1912 for E.A. Phillips grocery and hardware store. In the '80s it housed the Square Rigger night club.

## PLATT BUILDING

**402 Commercial Ave. Built 1890**

The first brick building in Anacortes was elaborately ornate when constructed by Lewis & Dryden Engineers of Portland, Oregon. Originally chartered as the Bank of Anacortes, it closed during the depression of 1893. Alterations have removed some of its architectural character. Two bank vaults have survived. Purchased by W.V. Wells upon return from the Klondike in 1900, it has housed numerous retail businesses, with upstairs apartments still in use.



## EMPIRE BLOCK

**420 Commercial Ave. Built 1905**

This brick two-story, built by attorney W.V. Wells, Judge Joiner and E.L. McClean, originally proclaimed "Empire Block" from its corner-facing pediment. It first

housed Thornburg's Department Store and was later known as the Medical-Dental Building.

## MCNAUGHT BUILDING

**419 Commercial Ave. Built 1890**

At four-stories, the Majestic Hotel is one of the tallest buildings in town. A cupola tops this wooden construction for James McNaught, counsel for Northern Pacific Railroad. Its original location at 8th Street and I Avenue was where he had expected to establish the town's business center. In 1904, the building was rolled eleven blocks to its current location. Original storefront windows and other features have been replaced. Building was damaged by fire and received extensive renovation during 2003-2005.







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## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

801 5th St. Built 1891

The shingled and gabled Queen Anne-style building, among the oldest surviving churches in Anacortes, is intact as built except for the loss of its large corner

tower. Recently renovated, it is now an art and cultural center.

## MUNICIPAL BUILDING

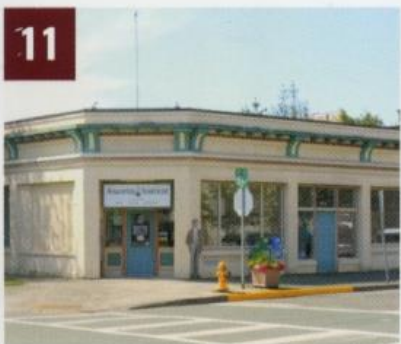
904 6th St. Built 1915 and 1922

The Elks (B.P.O.E.) built this concrete structure in 1915. In 1922, they completed a major expansion to hold increased membership and host the state Elks convention.

The Elks moved out by 1937, leaving the space to serve as a community center. In 1947, it became the Anacortes City Hall.



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## ANACORTES AMERICAN

901 6th St. Built by 1913

Anacortes American Publisher J.M. Post bought three lots at 6th and Q in 1910 to build a specially designed "fireproof" building with concrete press beds. The newspaper,

founded in 1890, has operated from the site since 1913.

## MILLER BUILDING

1013 5th St. Built 1899

Narrow wood-frame storefront built by William Miller. Modest cornice and carved brackets suggest Italianate derivation.

Steve Plancich operated a grocery

here in 1911. Later apartments were added and the front was modified. Otherwise, it is virtually unaltered.



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## CLYDE ROGERS HOUSE

1115 5th St. Built around 1902

Built in the "Colonial Revival" style on property purchased by Clyde and Norah Rogers for the princely sum of \$400.



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### W.M. RODGERS HOUSE

1119 5th St. *Built around 1902*

Note steeply pitched, pyramidal roof, eave brackets, pendants and multi-gable projections, and polygonal bay on west side beneath cantilevered second story. Home to Marinakos

family, who ran the Maryland Café at 314 Commercial from 1922 - c.1941.

### J.A. MATHESON HOUSE

1201 5th St. *Built around 1890*

A gabled Queen Anne style mansion with Eastlake elements, including ornamental bay windows. Bought from original owners, John and Patience McDonald, in 1899 by

Matheson, who came to Anacortes in 1891 to establish the first codfish plant on Puget Sound. Matheson Cod Fisheries was located on the waterfront at the foot of K Avenue.



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### MAE TEMPLE HOUSE

1211 5th St. *Built about 1900*

A late Victorian era vernacular with two original polygonal bay windows. Owned by Mae Temple and her husband Stephen, who was superintendent of the Anacortes

Light & Water Co. in 1902. The Temples also operated a stationary and sundries store at 608 Commercial called The Racket.

### KATHERINE FLYNN HOUSE

1215 5th St. *Built around 1902*

Built in the Queen Anne style. Original owner was widow of E.W. Flynn, who bought the property in 1901 from Seattle & Northern Railroad. Note truncated hip-roof with gables.



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### JAMES & ADDIE CAVANAUGH HOUSE

1219 5th St. *Built around 1902*

Truncated hip-roof with projecting gables and modillion-like eave ornamentation that is repeated at porch. Home to father/founder of J.H. Cavanaugh & Sons shingle mill,

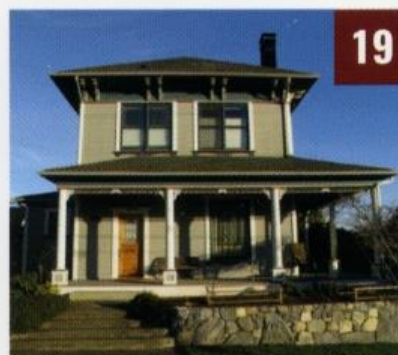
established in 1902, operating at various locations along the mill row crowding Fidalgo Bay's west shoreline.



## MCTAGGART HOUSE

**1204 6th St. Built 1890**

Classic Victorian era wood framed Italianate with distinctive brackets and bay windows, built in 1890 for Edward and May McTaggart. Purchased by Valentine and Barbara Funk in 1903.



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## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**1216 7th St. Built 1891**

Gabled wood-frame structure with exterior modifications. Quaint cathedral style inside with canopied sedilia around the chancel and hand-carved altar shipped around the horn from New York City. First minister was Rev. W.A. Platt, father of early banker John Platt.

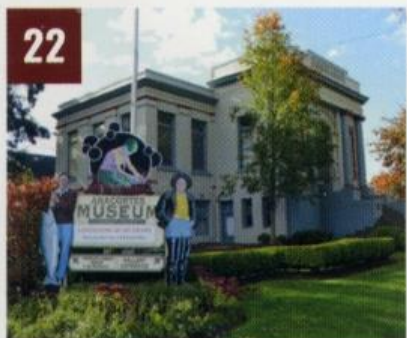
## CAUSLAND MEMORIAL PARK

**M to N at 8th St. Built 1920-1926**

The first park in Anacortes, purchased in 1903 as Great Northern Park, on what had been railroad land near the 9th Street & N Avenue train station. Canadian landscape architect, Jean Baptiste LePage, was hired to direct community volunteers and design the unique stone mosaic structures made of locally gathered rocks. Named for WWI hero Harry Leon Causland. Register nomination notes comparison of design to work of Anton Gaudi. **[NR]**



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## ANACORTES MUSEUM

*Historic Carnegie Library*

**1305 8th St. Built 1910**

Designed by the Bellingham firm of Piper and Cox, ground-floor walls constructed of Skagit County cement, scored on exterior surfaces. The superstructure is of load bearing masonry, faced with buff-toned pressed brick, now painted. Front treatment represents Renaissance and Neo-classical themes so frequently employed in Carnegie library projects. Building has housed museum since 1968. Drop in! **[NR]**



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## WILSON HOTEL

**808 Commercial Ave. Built 1890**

Designed in the "Romanesque Revival" style by architects Pickles & Sutton. Note pilasters and brick corbelling on the second and third levels. Hotel was built by David

Hall of Tacoma, using bricks from local See's Brickyard. Sold to Valentine Funk in 1901. West side addition constructed in the 1926. Upper floors, vacant for decades, converted to apartments in 2007.

## EMPIRE THEATER

**620 Commercial Ave. Built in 1913**

Early cinema of concrete construction. Flat roof once supported prominent cornice. Built for Douglass Allmond by contractors Farmer & Duvall.

Original tenants were Empire Theater and a separate jewelry store, acquired by Phil D. Burton in 1930. Extensive renovation, designed by architect Don McKee in 1958, expanded Burton Jewelers and added offices above.



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## SHANNON HARDWARE

**602 Commercial Ave. Built 1891**

One of the oldest, surviving wood commercial buildings in Anacortes. Remodeling in 1985 altered storefront, but original Italianate style remains obvious. Note parapets.

## KEYSTONE BLOCK

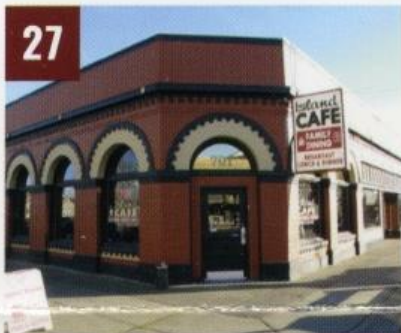
**619 Commercial Ave. Built 1910**

Built of brick, stone and concrete under the supervision of C.J. Marani, this three-story replaced an 1891 wooden structure, also built for the Moyer family. Elks Lodge was original tenant of top floor. Stores, offices and lodging have varied over a century of use.



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## CITIZENS BANK

**701 Commercial Ave. Built 1906**

Brick Romanesque Revival construction, a popular bank design application in early 20th century America. Scene of bank robbery at 3 p.m. on April 14, 1924. Four

bandits stole \$18,539.40 after firing four shots and knocking bank Manager, W.T. Odlin, senseless. Home to a succession of restaurants since 1930s, including Empire Café and Harbor Bar.

## EAGLES HALL

**901 7th St. Built 1920**

Neo-Classical style brick two-story designed by Emil Guenther for the Fraternal Order of Eagles, Aerie #249. Note frieze and a modillion course topped by a strong projecting cornice and "Eagles Hall" in the plinth. Ballroom host to many musical events for a century.



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## GREAT NORTHERN RAILROAD DEPOT

**611 R Ave. Built 1911**

Designed by Samuel Bartlett, a rare half-timbered (Tudor) depot. Water table and sill course of Chuckanut stone, from near Bellingham.

Roof was originally Bangor slate trimmed with red tiling. J.D. Broderick had charge of construction. Interior is finished in natural birch wood, with floor and base in mosaic tile and walls to 5-ft. in Tiffany enameled brick. **[NR]**

## W.T. PRESTON SNAGBOAT

**703 R Ave. Built 1939**

A National Historic Landmark, built at Lake Union Drydock in Seattle, this retired sternwheeler kept Puget Sound waterways clear of "snags" and other navigational hazards until 1981. The Anacortes Museum's largest artifact since 1983. Tour the snagboat and the Maritime Heritage Center, astern. **[NR]**



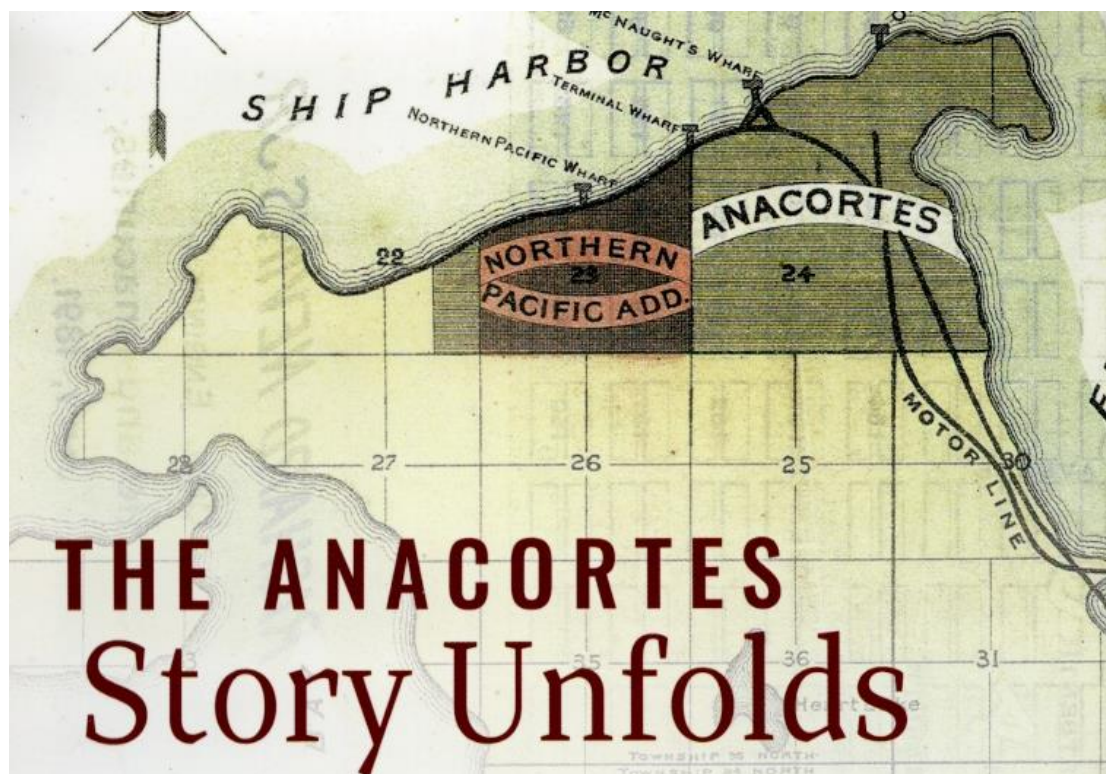
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### PLEASE NOTE

Please admire private home sites from public sidewalks only.

Business along the route welcome your visit and any questions you may have about their historic premises.





# THE ANACORTES Story Unfolds

This area has been home to the Samish and Swinomish tribes since time immemorial. Spanish and British ships explored area waters in the 1790s. Early American settlers arrived by the 1860s. Amos Bowman and his wife arrived in 1876, and in 1879 he established a post office named "Anacortes" for his wife Anne Curtis Bowman.

Town founders had a big idea: to be the terminus of a transcontinental railroad! In 1890, population grew from 200 to 2,000 on speculation. Some streets and buildings you will visit on this tour were constructed during this time. But the boom ended, and large brick buildings housing banks and hotels emptied. Yet by the mid-1890s, hundreds of people were employed in salmon canning and codfish curing plants. Lumber mills thrived on timber from Skagit County and surrounding islands. Many homes you see belonged to mill and cannery owners. Since the 1950s, another shift has occurred with the arrival of two oil refineries, marinas, technology and tourist-based industries, boat building, motels, retired folks and artists, all enjoying our location and our heritage.

## MITCHELL'S MURALS CELEBRATE OUR STORY

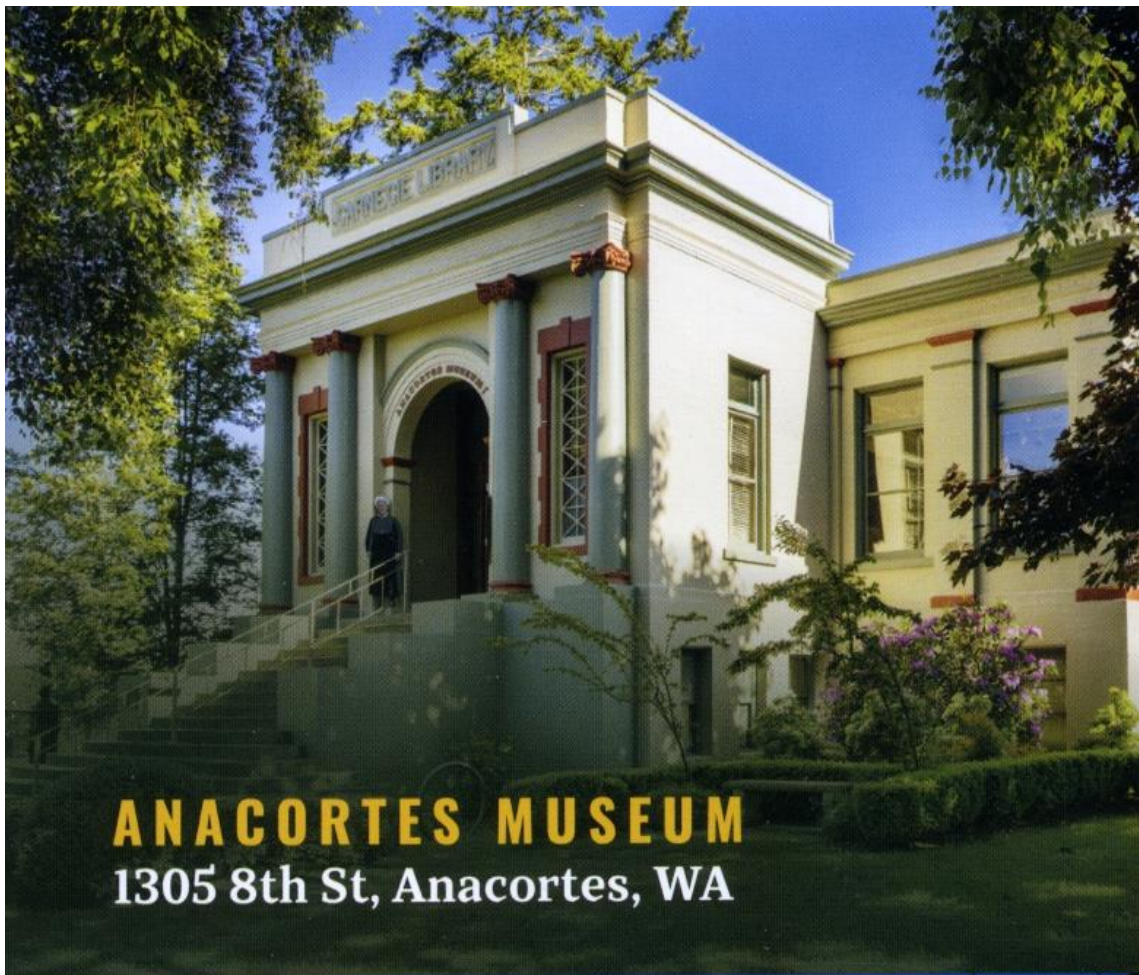
Along your route today you will enjoy murals depicting citizens of distinction from every era. We urge you to stop and enjoy each one. A complete list of murals is available at Anacortes Chamber of Commerce, 9th and Commercial. Murals are the work of Anacortes resident Bill Mitchell.

## ANACORTES HISTORIC PRESERVATION BOARD

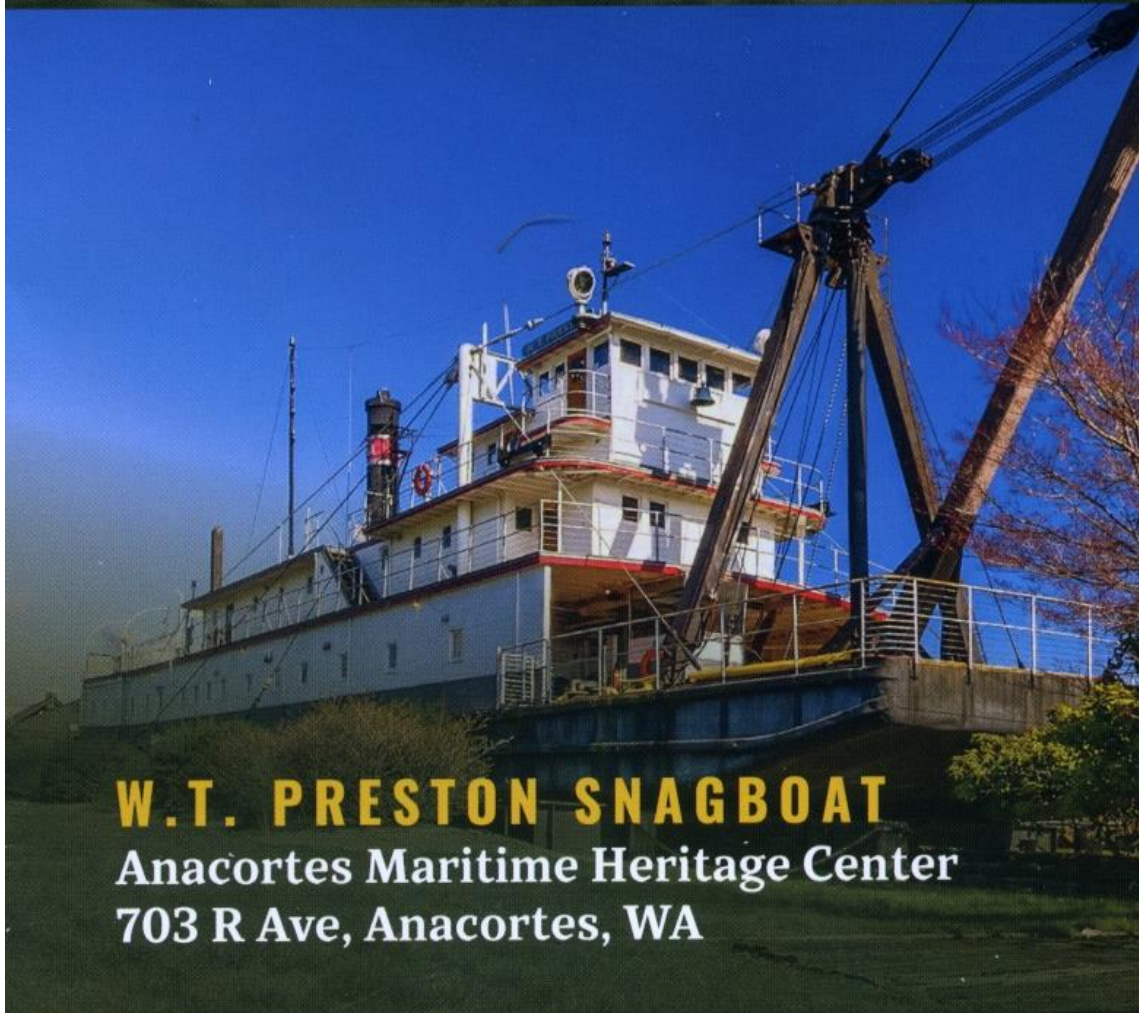
**Our Mission:** "To encourage the preservation and appreciation of Anacortes's architectural history through education and technical assistance for private homeowners, business owners and keepers of historic or culturally significant landscapes."

**[NR]** Denotes buildings listed on National Register of Historic Places, January 2008.





**ANACORTES MUSEUM**  
1305 8th St, Anacortes, WA



**W.T. PRESTON SNAGBOAT**  
Anacortes Maritime Heritage Center  
703 R Ave, Anacortes, WA

**BECOME A MEMBER!**  
Anacortes Museum Foundation  
1305 8th St, Anacortes, WA

Inquire at the Anacortes Museum.

360-293-1915  
[museum.cityofanacortes.org](http://museum.cityofanacortes.org)

